FEATURES
***Project READ***
Check out a group of Hamilton students who engaged in a unique research experience. **page 4**

OPINION
***Spotify COVID-19 Misinformation***
Karron '23 examines the controversy surrounding misinformation on the streaming service. **page 7**

SPORTS
***2022 Citrus Bowl***
In an annual tradition, the men's hockey team faced off in one of the first home games of the year. **page 12**

# The Spectator

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Volume LXIII
Number XV

*Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends*

# Marijuana sanctions lowered

**by Sumiko (Miko) Newman '24**
*STAFF WRITER*

Effective Wednesday, Jan. 19, Hamilton students will now face less strict standard sanctions for possession of marijuana for personal use.

In an email to the student body, Vice President and Dean of Students Terry Martinez announced that the Code of Student Conduct was updated to reduce the amount of points a student receives for their first instance caught in the possession of marijuana for personal use (in violation of College policies on possession or use of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia) from two disciplinary points to one. Martinez added that the sanction for possession of drug paraphernalia will range between one and four disciplinary points and sanctions for possession of paraphernalia for the purpose of consuming marijuana will likely be on the lower end of the sanction. Repeated or more egregious offenses may result in higher point values.

This change in the College's policies follows Governor Andrew Cuomo's signing of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) into New York State law on March 31, 2021. This law legalized marijuana for adults 21 years of age and older. However, it should be noted that the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 prohibits the consumption of cannabis at colleges and universities that receive funding from the federal government. Thus, Hamilton College cannot currently legally allow cannabis on campus.

Since the fall, Student Assembly (SA) has pushed the College to amend the Code of Student Conduct in accordance with the state legislation. On Friday, Oct. 22, Resolution 21-4: Cannabis Legalization Response (introduced by former SA President Eric Santomauro-Stenzel '24 and current Class President Jackson Harris '22) passed in the Student Assembly. The resolution recommended that the Office of Community Standards make changes to abide by the MRTA.

Along with the New York lawmakers, Stenzel and Harris acknowledge the disproportionate policing that led Black and Hispanic people to face many more low-level marijuana charges than white people and the potential MRTA has to address this racially disparate impact of existing laws.

Stenzel explained why he thinks the change in the Code of Student Conduct was a necessary action for the College: "Marijuana is far less dangerous than alcohol. With NY State legalizing marijuana, students 21 and older will not be breaking the law by consuming it. College policy should reflect that to the greatest extent it legally can, particularly to decrease the chances of disproportionate policy enforcement against marginalized students."

When asked if he believes the administration should make any other further changes to how they deal with substance use on campus, Stenzel remarked, "The resolution calls for the removal of all sanctions on students 21 and older for owning cannabis paraphernalia assuming it is used off campus, but the new policy still calls for a sanction. Moreover, currently, students who possess any illegal non-marijuana drug can get 8 to 10 points. I don't think students should lose abroad privileges or be at serious risk of suspension for getting caught tripping on shrooms and not bothering anyone."

Overall, Stenzel is happy with Hamilton's recent Code of Student Conduct change, and he hopes for more progressive changes in the future.

PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

# Terry Martinez to retire in May

**by Eric Moss '24**
*EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*

In a statement released on Jan. 28, 2022, President David Wippman announced to the Hamilton community the news of Vice President and Dean of Students Terry Martinez's retirement at the end of this academic year. Dean Martinez has served Hamilton as Vice President and Dean of Students since her arrival on College Hill in 2017 and has more recently been a positive force for change as Hamilton's Chief Diversity Officer, a role she undertook in 2018.

Dean Martinez, known for her warmth, charisma and extraordinary commitment to Hamilton's students, has spearheaded numerous initiatives throughout her five years on the Hill. In addition to major, campus-encompassing efforts such as advocating for mental health resources for students, Dean Martinez has also shown tremendous individual care for each member of the community she encounters, whether that be by hosting students at her home for a meal prior to the outbreak of the pandemic or simply by giving a smile and hello to anyone she passes by while walking our campus.

President Wippman expressed to *The Spectator* that "Terry has been an outstanding Dean of Students, a wonderful colleague, and a terrific community leader." He further commented that Dean Martinez "has helped Hamilton navigate a series of difficult challenges, including the worst global pandemic in over 100 years. She has always embraced opportunities for growth and innovation in student and residential life, with a focus on building strong living-learning communities. She will be greatly missed."

On behalf of all students, we at *The Spectator* wish to express our deepest gratitude for Dean Martinez's service to others and are sorry to lose such an integral member of our wonderful community.

# Sadove Student Center to host "Clubs Around the Hill" Spring Club Fair

**by Rosario Alarcon '22**
*STAFF WRITER*

On Friday, Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sadove Student Center will host the Club Fair, but "this time with a twist." This semester, the Club Fair is titled "Clubs Around the Hill." It will take place at nine different on campus locations and feature 59 clubs.

Sadove Center Co-Manager Ashley Garcia '22 explained that "the global pandemic has drastically changed the way we live our lives, and with that comes the absence of community on campuses such as ours. In order to ensure that students who have only known the Hill during pandemic times are exposed to some of the best buildings and people on this campus, we decided to make the Spring 2022 Club Fair almost like a scavenger hunt. You are searching for buildings you might have never heard of and looking for clubs that may bring you an unexplainable sense of joy during your time at Hamilton. We really just wanted to make an event that gets students excited about living on this special campus of ours."

As part of the scavenger hunt-like experience, students can pick up the passports available at any of the nine stops, which are the Alumni Gym, the Events Barn, the Blood Fitness Center Conference Room, Bundy Dining Hall, Kirner-Johnson Commons 1 & 2, the Science Center, Sadove Student Center and outside of Wellin Hall. At every stop, a student can check out the different clubs set up there and speak with different representatives. Students can get their passport stamped before moving on to the next Club Fair designated location.

Afterwards, they can drop off the passport at Sadove Student Center. Each stamp on the passport counts as one entry into the raffle. From the raffle, students can win prizes such as an iPad with Apple pencil, Speaker Box Portable and Hydroflasks, as well as UberEats, GrubHub, Target and Hannaford gift cards.

Staff members from Sadove and Student Activities have been highly involved in planning the Club Fair. According to Garcia, "We have about four supervisors, each focusing on a special aspect of the project, and there will be as many as nine additional staff members on the day of the program to ensure it is a success. There's been outreaching to clubs since the first day of school and graphics that have been worked on for weeks on end. Most importantly, there's the aspect of encouraging student organizations to participate. Three hours is a long time for any college student's day, and so this was the perfect opportunity to teach student leaders how to delegate tasks."

The Club Fair is open to all students. Additionally, the event planners encourage all new students, January admits and students returning from Study Abroad to attend the Club Fair so they can get (re)acclimated to campus and meet new people.

"Plenty, if not all, of these organizations are beginner friendly, so even if you've never had your hand at juggling or tap dancing, there is space for you! Participating in student organizations is a wonderful way to meet people who are interested in similar subject matters and hobbies as you," says Garcia.

Before "Clubs Around the Hill," takes place, students can watch teaser videos that a few clubs have put together in anticipation of Friday, which can be found on the Sadove Student Center Instagram, @hamiltonsadove.

## Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

**Thurs., Jan. 27**

1:59 a.m. Fire Alarm — Events Barn

11:13 a.m. Assist — Ferguson House

11:34 a.m. Trouble Alarm — Keehn Residence Hall

11:57 a.m. Trouble Alarm — Keehn Residence Hall

**Fri., Jan. 28**

3:44 a.m. Medical Emergency — Woollcott House

10:04 a.m. Assist — Parking Lot: Root Student

10:33 a.m. Medical Emergency — Sadove Student Center

11:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident — Parking Lot: Dunham

12:22 p.m. Medical Emergency — Taylor Science Center

8:25 p.m. Area Check — Babbitt Pavilion

**Sat., Jan. 29**

12:54 a.m. Medical Emergency — Babbitt Residence Hall

1:59 a.m. Assist — Griffin Road

11:48 a.m. Complaint — Commons

3:24 a.m. Assist — Johnson Center For Health And Wellness

4:19 p.m. Area Check — Alumni Gym

7:59 p.m. Area Check — Major Residence Hall

**Sun., Jan. 30**

12:50 a.m. Trouble Alarm — Major Residence Hall

1:41 a.m. Noise Complaint — Milbank Residence Hall

7:40 a.m. Medical Emergency — Root Residence Hall

3:37 p.m. Motorist Assist — South Campus

4:16 p.m. Odor of Marijuana — Milbank Residence Hall

10:46 p.m. Area Check — Sadove Student Center

**Mon., Jan. 31**

12:34 a.m. Area Check — Couper Hall

12:52 a.m. Area Check — Couper Hall

12:56 a.m. Area Check — Couper Hall

10:15 a.m. Suspicious Activity — Taylor Science Center

10:31 a.m. Trouble Alarm — ABC House

12:28 p.m. Motorist Assist — Campus Road

4:07 p.m. Medical Emergency — Major Residence Hall

4:35 p.m. Motorist Assist — Tennis Courts

5:27 p.m. Area Check — Dunham Residence Hall

9:09 p.m. Area Check — Woollcott House

10:12 p.m. Complaint — Bundy West Residence Hall

10:17 p.m. Trouble Alarm — Morris House

**Tue., Feb. 1**

1:23 a.m. Area Check — North Campus

6:30 a.m. Area Check — Woollcott House

9:14 a.m. Concern For Welfare — Babbitt Residence Hall

10:29 a.m. Parking Complaint — Saunders Art Studio

4:45 p.m. Area Check — Minor Residence Hall

Dear Hamilton Community,

This year marks 175 years of publishing our weekly issue of *The Spectator*! Originally published as *The Radiator* dating back to 1847, *The Spec* has proudly served the Hamilton community as one of the oldest college newspapers in the country. Be on the look out for more from us about this exciting news and the history of our paper.

Be sure to catch us at the Club Fair this Friday (2/4) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sadove if you or your friends are interested in joining up with the coolest group on campus. Our team just released applications for new positions, such as staff writer, fact checker and social media/web editor. We have loved looking through all of the applications we have received already, and we look forward to reviewing more!

Catch our weekly issues of *The Spec* around popular campus locations such as Commons, McEwen, Diner, Kirner-Johnson (KJ) and Taylor Science Center (SCCT), as well as our articles published online at spec.hamilton.edu.

Welcome Back,
Eric and Emma Mae

**The Spectator**

**Editors-in-Chief**
*Emma Mae Regan*
*Eric Moss*

**Editor-Emeritus**
*Claire Goldstein*

**Managing Editors**
*Claire Goldstein*
*Catherine McFarland*

**Sports Editors**
*Sam Dils*
*Owen Lewis*

**A&E Editors**
*Emma Bowman*
*Lily Rizzoli*

**Production Editors**
*Katherine Kim*
*Emma Swan*

**Advertising Manager**
*Mukund Jayaram*

**Opinion Editors**
*Matthew Collins*
*William Rampe*

**Features Editors**
*Nicholas Cackett*
*Madeline Pittel*

**News Editors**
*Anoushka Aswin*
*Deanna Durben*

**Investigative Reporting Editors**
*Duncan Freeman*
*Abbie Wolff*
*Stella Karron*

***The Spectator***

**is looking for social media editors, web editors and individuals who want to distribute the paper to join our staff!**

**follow us on instagram and twitter!**

**Visit us online!**
spec.hamilton.edu

*Celebrating 174 years, we were first published as* The Radiator *in 1848.*

*The Spectator's* Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

*The Spectator* has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

## About Us

*The Hamilton College* Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

# Project READ: Four sophomores intern for non-profit literacy project

**by Stella O'Brien '24**
*Contrubitng Writer*

Over Winter Break, four members of the sophomore class were hired as grant application and research interns for Project READ, a non-profit project spearheaded by Hamilton alumna Christina Plakas '19. Project READ seeks to "empower incarcerated individuals to pursue avenues of self-healing, legal action, and activism, as a response to their incarceration." This project contributes to the welfare of incarcerated people by setting up book clubs in correctional facilities.

**Stella O'Brien**: Can you tell me a bit about your experience at Hamilton College?
**Christina Plaka**s: I'm from New York City and came to Hamilton to pursue a degree in sociology with a minor in Hispanic studies. I was always interested in criminology and criminal justice, and Hamilton reinforced my belief that this was what I want to further pursue.

**S.O**: How did you realize you were passionate about criminal justice?
**C.P**: During my study abroad in Madrid, I was working in a hospital and treating patients that had no visitors. Many of these patients were incarcerated people, and they often sought out reading materials and things to do to keep busy. This made me think about the relationship between incarceration and the impact of literature and reading on detainees.

**S.O**: How did you follow this passion after graduating from Hamilton?
**C.P:** I graduated in 2019 and spent a year working as a wrongful convictions paralegal, in constant contact with many incarcerated individuals. Later, I transferred to Rikers Island Prison, where I worked in the law library. So many men there would come in and ask if there were books to read for fun or pleasure. Unfortunately, I had to tell them no. It was just like working at the hospital again—it underscored a huge lack of access to literature and humanity for detainees.

**S.O:** What was your experience working at Rikers Island like?
**C.P:** The environment was chaotic, and there were constantly alarms going off and things happening; it wasn't a place of peace or stability at all. In spite of that, though, I learned a lot and developed meaningful relationships that serve as the foundation for the majority of the work I do now. It was at that point that I learned firsthand how poor the conditions for prisoners really are.

**S.O:** Can you tell me about the people you met there?
**C.P:** There was a detainee who was also working in the law library as a clerk and would talk to me about books. He gifted me his personal copy of a book called *Peace Behind the Wire: A Nonviolent Revolution*. I was really grateful for the interaction and gifted him *The New Jim Crow* in return. He told me he wished his friends in Rikers could read that book too, and I realized that I wanted to do more for this cause. At that point, I decided to go to graduate school and pursue a Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice.

**S.O:** What was the research question you initially wanted to investigate, and where did that research take you?
**C.P:** After all the things I had learned, I wanted to dig into the positive impacts of book clubs and access to literature for detained people. I found that book clubs are the intersection of education, community, confidence, and are a positive outlet. A book club can become an environment like group therapy—there is open communication, a discussion of opinions and beliefs, and people can use these books as a stage to bring about deeply personal conversations. Because there are so few examples, most of my work was theoretical and now I'm trying to bring this research to life.

**S.O:** Is there anything that you discovered when conducting your research that shocked you?
**C.P:** A lot of educational programs in prisons bar inmates with life sentences or long sentences from participating, which I was very taken aback by. Outside of these programs, at least at Rikers, there's no access to computers for inmates, and all their motions or written work is done through typewriters. So, without physical copies of books, the opportunity to further one's education or even just interact with literature becomes near impossible.

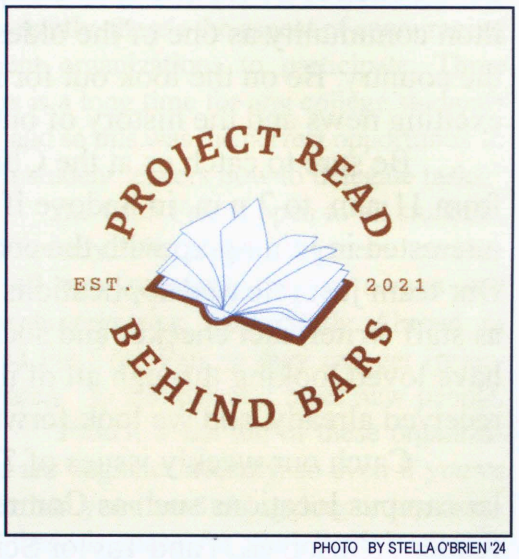

PHOTO BY STELLA O'BRIEN '24

**S.O**: Are you still in touch with the detained clerk who gifted you *Peace Behind the Wire*?
**C.P:** Yes. His name is Tyjuan Cassidy, and he's the co-founder of the non-profit Project READ, the mastermind of this project and my guide on what direction we can take our work in to be most helpful to those directly impacted. He has been instrumental in the process of this non-profit because he knows best what is needed. His feedback and partnership are at the center of this project.

**S.O:** Can you tell me a bit about him?
**C.P:** He's from Brooklyn, New York, and has been a huge inspiration for this project and a close collaborator. He entered the carceral justice system at the juvenile age of 14 after getting caught up in gang-related activity. The focus of his social life and close group of friends became criminal activity, and so he sees it vital to capture youth before they enter the justice system as well as improving conditions for those whose lives are touched by it already. At 39, he's now serving an eight-year sentence for shooting a man in self-defense. Cassidy has two sons, a stepson, two nephews and a grandson and a huge emphasis on youth outreach.

**S.O:** What is the vision you share for this project?
**C.P:** Short term, I want to run book drives and provide any access to literature that I can. Eventually, I want to collect multiple copies of the same book, so detainees can read along together and discuss the books as a group. That's why I think colleges are a great place to partner with, because often an entire classroom will order multiple copies of the same book—donating them would be a great way to offer it a second life.

**S.O:** What would be the long-term vision?
**C.P:** I want to also provide resource guides along with the literature that would be for fun or pleasure, such as pamphlets and instructional books about mental health, writing, resume building and other practical skills. Eventually, it's Cassidy's vision that this project becomes community-based and builds into a mentorship program to reach young people before they interact with the carceral justice system.

**S.O:** Has Cassidy expressed why this project is so meaningful to him?
**C.P:** Cassidy said that "by creating this non-profit, I am aiming to affect any change that will help young minorities who have similar experiences as I have. Starting within the Black community, and beyond, it is my vision to prevent lives from being lost to the streets, by death or through the legal system. The plan is to work closely with law enforcement, politicians, criminal justice professionals, families of victims, my peers and youth to create programs and processes that will improve their social outcome."

February 3, 2022

# Bachelor & Bachelorette

## Wriley Nelson '22

PHOTO BY WRILEY NELSON '22

**Hometown:** Cooperstown, NY.
**Home on Campus:** Minor.
**Major:** Government.
**Turn on?** A nice, cute smile.
**Turn off?** Not enough red flags to be cute.
**If you were a dorm which would you be and why?** Glenview, because I'm not here for a long time or a good time, and because my ass takes up sixty parking spaces.
**What advertising slogan best describes your life?** Hopefully the O'Reilly's Autoparts one ;)
**What TV genre best describes you?** Hallmark movie. I'm aiming to be the gruff cowboy with the heart of gold waiting for the big-city lawyer who's sick of her job and hates Christmas.
**What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?** "Whoa you must be my homework, because I want to throw you on my desk, do you for like five minutes, then realize I have no idea what I'm doing and cry for the rest of the night."
**What's your type?** Dark hair; can lift more than me; makes more money than me; loud alcoholic.
**What are three things you cannot live without?** My sleep mask (need the lights off for some things at least); my borderline *American Psycho* self-care routine; my friend, mentor and publicity agent Joseph Han
**If you were any social space, what would it be?** Definitely KJ Atrium. It's a great place to mill around and talk to random strangers to procrastinate.
**Where do you go when you want to be alone?** Nothing beats a nice Sunday afternoon reading in the Science Center.
**If you could join one group on campus, what would it be?** I'd join my own friend group all over again because they really can't be beat (and also probably the track team)
**What's your Patronus and why?** Definitely some kind of houseplant. I don't do much more than sit in the sun drinking water and looking pretty.
**If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose?** Arson.
**What would you give a thumbs up?** Napping on those rock walls in front of commons (only I don't actually want you to do this because they're my sunbathing spot).
**What would you give a thumbs down?** Taking classes. They can really wreck your GPA.
**Who would you say is your campus crush?** That hottie I keep seeing in mirrors and windows.
**If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense?** Slow walking.

## Andrea Shipton '22

PHOTO BY ANDREA SHIPTON '22

**Hometown:** Mountain Top, PA.
**Home on Campus:** Third floor Milbank, happiest place on earth
**Major:** Environmental Studies.
**Turn on?** The first 26 minutes and 18 seconds of the Jumanji movie apparently.
**Turn off?** People who start/end every other text with "haha".
**If you were a dorm which would you be and why?** Dunham, because it's so hot you always gotta keep a window open.
**What advertising slogan best describes your life?** "Love, it's what makes a Subaru a Subaru."
**What TV genre best describes you?** Shows where the entire plot is the hosts/contestants getting humbled. Like *Impractical Jokers* or *Wipeout*. Got clocked in the head by a crossbar at a meet last week and it was one of the top three most humbling moments of my life.
**What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?** "You intimidate me." Delivered by a then-complete stranger at a commons circle table last Friday.
**What's your type?** Mountain men.
**What are three things you cannot live without?** Commons coffee cookie ice cream, my seester, the ice bath.
**If you were any social space, what would it be?** The ice bath after team practice.
**Where do you go when you want to be alone?** The ice bath after 7pm.
**What's your Patronus and why?** Mountain goat, because that's the answer I gave in my Adirondack Adventure interview and so now it's my forever answer.
**If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose?** Pole vaulting onto the east mezzanine in Commons would be pretty sick.
**What would you give a thumbs up?** The Massawepie Bog aka THE biggest bog in the state of New York. Also Anthony Mitchell's firetruck red jeep.
**What would you give a thumbs down?** Being imprisoned on the top floor of Bristol for Turkey Day 2020.
**Who would you say is your campus crush?** Lucy Jillings.
**Who would you say is your faculty crush?** Andrew Jillings.
**What would your perfect date be?** Sunrise hike followed by a HUGE brunch.
**What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?** Two of Wally J's scrapbooks from the 1920/30s that my uncle randomly found last summer.

**If you are interseted in being our next Bachelor or Bachlorette, email us at featspec@hamilton.edu!**

# Fritos: they deserve more respect

**by Tristan Sollectio '24**
*OPINION CONTRIBUTOR*

My time living in New York City has given me what I believe to be a unique opportunity to experience an unfathomable array of ideas, something that has taught me to understand and appreciate some of the most outlandish opinions ever spoken out loud. Despite the nearly universal agreement that considering a neighbor's beliefs can only enhance one's intellectual repertoire, there seem to be a select few topics unsuitable for the same degree of open-minded conversation. I'm sure you have seen and likely participated in such debates. There are some topics — abortion, foreign affairs, to name a few — that are capable of igniting painfully fruitful discussion. I have come to realize over the last few months that these topics are far from limited to politics, religion or any of the other subjects your parents warned you only to talk about among family. It has become evident to me that the discussion of snack preferences is important, too, but discussing them warrants caution.

This topic has brought me no shortage of mockery and ridicule. Friends, people that I thought understood me, have laughed in my face at the apparently preposterous declaration that I've made: "Fritos are far and away the most underrated snack on the market." This all started on the crisp, breezy evening of Oct. 4, 2021 as I kicked back in one of the expansive and cushy (Kirner Johnson) KJ chairs, watching the American League Wild Card game and convincing myself that I was brainstorming ideas for my archaeology paper. Inevitably, I got hungry and embarked on a leisurely stroll over to the vending machines.

As I surveyed my options, something kept grabbing my attention. It was not just one red-and-yellow bag of corn chips with the iconic namesake of undoubtedly the biggest chip conglomerate known to mankind stamped across the front. No. Not just one bag of Frito-Lay's delicious signature product, but a dozen, all lined up and just begging for selection. I was understandably curious, yet to realize that it was due, in large part, to the disturbing underappreciation of Fritos in our society. Of course, only a handful of Cheetos were left in their slot. No more than a couple bags of M&Ms remained. And to no surprise of mine, a gaping hole occupied the slot where a full row of Original Lays idled just two days prior. I thought back to my youth, when I would crack open my lunchbox at baseball camp and push aside my sandwich like a piece of lint to uncover the wrinkled bag of Fritos whose edges were peeking through. As I remember thoroughly enjoying them, I could not help but wonder at that moment if the corresponding 2-0-7 buttons on the vending machine were broken. They were not. I knew what needed to be done, and I walked back to that cushy chair with a bag of Fritos in hand and an inquisitive look on my face. I downed the whole bag faster than a bottle of water. I shall spare you my elaborate description of that experience, but let's just say it was positive.

Thus we arrive at the title of this article. It has become increasingly clear to me that no snack food on planet Earth is more underrated than Fritos corn chips. I do not claim that they are the best snack out there, unquestionably an insult to the likes of SmartFood White Cheddar Popcorn, but the margin is small. As I paraded around campus with what I considered a groundbreaking discovery, the response I got was anything but supportive. I was usually asked at first if I was crazy, followed by an aimless list of the dozens of snacks that are "better" than Fritos. However, the one that really got to me came from a close friend: "they are just corn and salt." Yes, and a romantic walk on the beach is "just" a series of steps on wet sand, a hot shower in the dead of winter is "just" hydrogen and oxygen running down the back of your neck. So just as a milkshake is "just" milk mixed with plain old chocolate ice cream, this combination of dehydrated cornmeal and sodium chloride happens to be delicious. It just works. That comment earned my friend a stern glare, followed by a 15 minute lecture about the value of simplicity in our lives. He now eats Fritos on a regular basis.

So what is causing such a destructive narrative around those delectable corn chips? Alas, I may not have the answer, but I do have a solution. The next time you have the opportunity, I challenge you to grab a bag of Fritos and enjoy. Let the salty explosion fill your palate; let the semi-circular chip curl around your tongue like a mother's arms around your body at the school bus stop. Finally, feel the firm crunch and the Frito disappear down your throat, only to realize that you can do it again about 50 times over.

Is there a lesson to be learned from this article? Well, I suppose you could draw an indirect message such as the importance of appreciating the little things in life, or the power of simplicity and not overstepping with futile additions to an already near-perfect product. The primary message, however, is far more explicit, and likely more relevant to your day-to-day life. The next time you find yourself at a vending machine, it would absolutely behoove you to opt for that exquisite, savory red-and-yellow bag of Fritos, and please don't feel obligated to thank me when you do.

PHOTO BY AMAZON

**A red-and-yellow bag of the original Fritos, an iconic corn-based snack option available in Hamilton College vending machines.**

February 3, 2022

# Spotify counter COVID-19 misinformation better on their app

**by Stella Karron '23**
*INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING EDITOR*

This past month, hundreds of scientists, doctors and other medical experts penned an open letter to the music streaming service Spotify, calling on the platform to take a stand against COVID-19 misinformation released through its platform. The writers stated that "by allowing the propagation of false and societally harmful assertions, Spotify is enabling its hosted media to damage public trust in scientific research and sow doubt in the credibility of data-driven guidance offered by medical professionals."

The letter focused on Joe Rogan, host of *The Joe Rogan Experience*, a podcast where that regularly features guests with often-controversial opinions. *The Joe Rogan Experience* is Spotify's most popular podcast, gaining over 11 million listeners per episode. The episode that started this uproar, uploaded on Dec. 31, featured the virologist Dr. Robert Malone, who promoted numerous inaccuracies about COVID-19 vaccines on air.

On Jan. 24, musician Neil Young announced his plans to remove his music from Spotify in protest, justifying his decision with the claim that "Spotify is spreading fake information about vaccines — potentially causing death to those who believe the disinformation being spread by them."

After Young pulled his music, other artists followed suit, including Joni Mitchell and Nils Lofgren. Even after this, Daniel Ek, chief executive of Spotify, has indicated that he has no plans to remove Rogan's podcast in the forseeable future, stating that "it is important to [Spotify] that we don't take on the position of being [a] content censor."

PHOTO BY THE JOE ROGAN PODCAST

**Podcast host Joe Rogan with guest Dr. Robert Malone on Dec. 31 discussing Malone's supposed findings of vaccine inefficiacy.**

This critique of Spotify's lack of censorship has been leveled at companies before, most prominently against Facebook. Last year, the most viewed Facebook link was a news headline originally published in the South Florida Sun Sentinel, claiming that "a 'healthy' doctor died two weeks after getting a COVID-19 vaccine; CDC is investigating why." Nearly 54 million users in the United States viewed this article. Months later, the article was followed up with a report stating that the original claims did not have enough evidence and were false, an announcement which received significantly fewer views. Following this controversy, President Joe Biden voiced his concern for social platforms' lack of censorship, remarking that these posts are "killing people." Biden's point highlights that without context or a clear understanding regarding the falsity of these ideas, viewers will be inclined to believe them. In spite of how dangerous these kinds of posts can be, it is legal for sites such as Facebook not to fact check them. If the companies choose not to censor themselves, they face no repercussions besides lost business. For example, firms could choose to pull their advertisements from Facebook, just as prominent artists refuse to use their streaming platform Spotify.

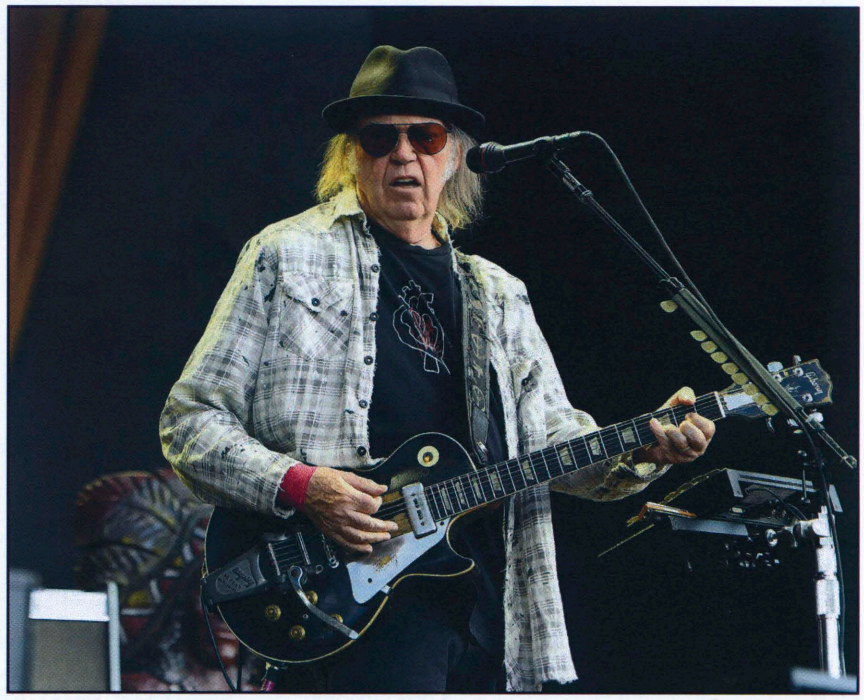

PHOTO BY ROLLING STONE

**Neil Young alongside his backing band, The Promise of the Real, performing their material at London's Hyde Park in 2019.**

To push these companies to censor misinformation, Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Ben Ray (D-NM) recently proposed the Health Misinformation Act. This bill would strip platforms of protections that keep them from being held liable for posts involving health misinformation. While currently under review, if made into law, it would be a first step toward censoring harmful misinformation.

Following Young's statement, Spotify announced that they would be addressing the matter by introducing an advisory label on any podcast that references COVID-19 and providing links towards factual information. In a statement, Ek wrote that Spotify executives "know [they] have a critical role to play in supporting creator expression while balancing it with the safety of [Spotify] users." It is one thing to provide a platform for polarizing political views, news stories you may not like or a president whose ideals do not line up with yours. Everyone has a right to their opinions and beliefs, and in the United States, our media has a responsibility to provide platforms for all these beliefs.

However, the ideas expressed on the Dec. 31 episode of *The Joe Rogan Experience* are different: they are factually incorrect and harmful. These ideas focused on false claims regarding the harms of the vaccine, during a time of COVID-19, when 90% of deaths could have been prevented had people been vaccinated. Taking a stand to stop vaccine inaccuracies from reaching over 11 million people is not censorship, it is saving lives. Spotify must take stronger actions against misinformation: it is simply inadequate to provide 'balanced views' when one such 'view' is factually incorrect and potentially fatal.

# Does *Euphoria* Season 2, Episode 4 pass the Bechdel test?

**by Eliza Roberts '24**
*A&E CONTRIBUTOR*

The campus buzzed with anticipation for the newest episode of *Euphoria's* second season, especially those who attended the Euphoria watch party in the Sadove Sun Porch. The show started its new season with an episode focused on two characters: Fez, the show's friendly neighborhood drug dealer, and Rue, the protagonist who is currently suffering from a relapse. Since then, the drama has only increased exponentially. Unfortunately, as the stakes have increased for the characters, their emotional nuances have diminished. This new season highlights the show's ability to maintain audience engagement with multiple plot lines, but the show begs an important question: does *Euphoria* pass the Bechdel test?

The Bechdel test is a feminist test coined by American cartoonist Alison Bechdel. It asks "does a fictional work contain two named women who speak about something other than a man?". The test is used to highlight misogyny in film and literature.

In my opinion, the latest episode of *Euphoria* has not passed the test, and the show is worse for it. The writing degenerates into cheap scenes played for shock value without any meaningful exchanges between people. Gone are the carefully complex backstories, and instead, the episode has reintroduced its female characters (Lexie, Kat, Jules, Rue, Cassie and Maddie) as underwritten pawns in the lives of its main stars: Fez, Nate, Elliot and Cal (Nate's dad). Their motivations, lines, actions and decisions all rest on the validation of male presence on the show.

After Rue and Jules's relationship takes on a third wheel, Elliot, things subsequently deteriorate. Jules and Rue's respect for each other decreases as their lies increase (Rue's relapse and Jules' infidelity), and furthermore, they begin to confide in Elliot over each other. Truthfully, the writers gifted Elliot and Jules with more chemistry (mainly sexually) than viewers have seen from the actual couple all season.

The writers also reduced Cassie and Maddie from friends to competitors fighting over Nate, the resident toxic male in the show. In this episode, Maddie throws a birthday party with her girlfriends, which almost gives the audience a break from the masculinity. However, Nate shows up halfway through, and things quickly devolve. Cassie turns inconsolable because she is never given a purpose besides making men love her, and Maddie starts an argument with Nate. Unfortunately, most of Maddie's lines seem to address the frustrating problem of their ever-unclear relationship. Even a private and sweet moment (albeit ruined by a few tasteless slurs) where Maddie wisely advises Kat to "do what feels good to [her]" still centers around the topic of her boyfriend to elicit an emotional exchange between two of the female characters.

The only other major plot lines include a brief peek into Fez's criminal activity and an extensive overview of Cal's past. First, the viewer learns from Fez's acquaintance that the police are still on Fez's trail. The plot then shifts to an emotional and haphazard montage of Nate's father as he takes a trip down memory lane. Cal has always had a difficult relationship with his sexuality. In high school, Cal harbored feelings for his best friend, Derek, and had a strikingly familiar tension with his own father. Eventually, Cal and Derek give in to their feelings, but at this moment, Cal's girlfriend (Nate's mother) reveals she is pregnant with Nate's older brother. Cal's past has haunted him his whole life and, in this episode, he reaches his breaking point. When Cal returns home, his rampage continues, and it becomes abundantly clear how little respect he has for women, particularly his wife. Cal drunkenly announces his departure from the family,

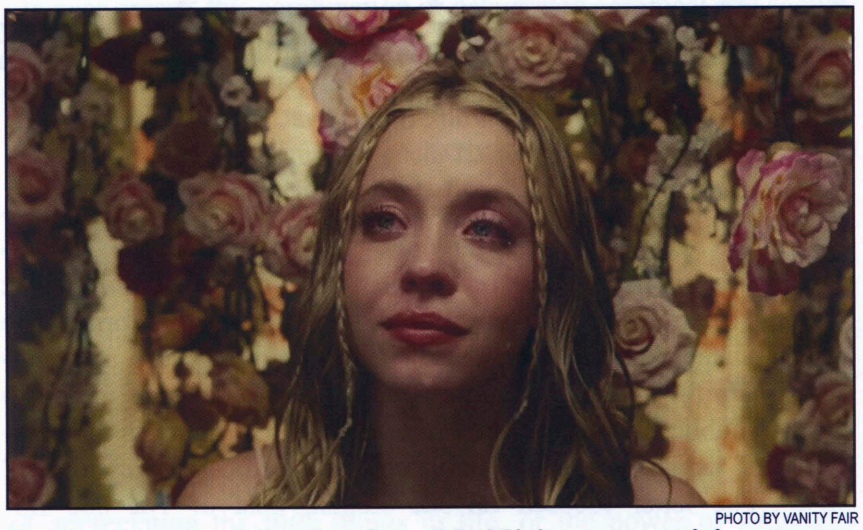

PHOTO BY VANITY FAIR

**Cassie gets emotional after Maddie's traumatizing party.**

PHOTO BY ART NEWS

**Hunter Schafer embodying Frida Kahlo in *The Lovers' Scene*.**

PHOTO BY POPSUGAR.

**Cal Jacobs (Eric Danes) revisits a bar from his adolescence.**

but not before emotionally and physically violating his own wife.

I believe that the only scene reminiscent of the first season is during Rue's high. As she walks into a church, she embraces Labrinth, who is singing gospel at the altar. She hugs him, but imagines her dad in place, and in a moment of pure humanity, apologizes for letting her dad down and reveals just how much she misses him. This moment could be the start to a full redemption arc for Rue (which she has yet to receive). However the episode ends violently with Cal storming out, leaving fans wondering what happened.

Overall, reviews for the second season of Euphoria have been a mixed bag, with some viewers finding that the season lacks substance, while others claim that the cinematography, acting and plot is beautifully done and heartbreaking. Regardless of one's stance, it is clear that Episode 4 of *Euphoria* does nothing but sexualize the female characters of the show, and decidedly does not pass the Bechdel test. Viewers can only hope that future episodes will.

# My Midwinter Playlist

By Lily Rizzoli '24
A&E Editor

**The Hardest Part**
Olivia Dean
01:20 - 03:30

**Spit Of You**
Sam Fender
01:20 - 03:30

**Is It Any Wonder?**
Durand Jones & The Indications
01:20 - 03:30

**This Feeling**
Alabama Shakes
01:20 - 03:30

**The Final Frame**
Michael Kiwanuka
01:20 - 03:30

**Dead of Night**
Orville Peck
01:20 - 03:30

**Flight Attendant**
Josh Rouse
01:20 - 03:30

**Better Than**
Lake Street Drive
01:20 - 03:30

**So Good At Being In Trouble**
Unknown Mortal Orchestra
01:20 - 03:30

**The Subway Song**
Delacey
01:20 - 03:30

# Public Speaking Competition 2022

*Presented by the Oral Communication Center*

*The Warren E. Wright Prize*
*The Clark Prize*
*The McKinney Prize in Oratory*

- 6-8 minute speech
- Opportunities for all class years
- Win up to $8000 in prizes

For more info about the three prizes, FAQs, past winners and more, check out hamilton.edu/publicspeaking

Submit your videos at bit.ly/pubspeak22 or via the QR code on the left by February 11 at noon!

# Scenes from the 2022 Citrus Bowl

**by Sam Dils '22**
*SPORTS EDITOR*

PHOTO BY HANA DOLAN '25

**Owen Luft '25 takes a faceoff in the offensive zone.**

One of Hamilton's most cherished athletic traditions, the Citrus Bowl returned to Russell Sage Rink on Fri., Jan. 28, as the men's hockey team faced off against Wesleyan College in its first weekend home game since the start of the spring semester.

In front of a full house, the Continentals were unable to overcome an early Wesleyan barrage that left the score at 3-0 in favor of Wesleyan heading into the first intermission. An unfortunate combination of early penalties helped the Cardinals get on the board, taking the lead on a power-play goal with just over eight minutes left in the first period. Just a few minutes later, the lead had expanded to three, and fans were beginning to get anxious that the sought-after, citrusy, first goal might never come.

Facing an uphill battle, the team showed great persistence to stay in the game. After a scoreless second period, Hamilton outshot Wesleyan 11-4 in the third and final period, flipping the ice and putting together a real comeback bid.

The moment everyone had been waiting for came with 7:30 min. left in the game. Up on the power play, Nick Rutigliano '22 fed Jordi Jefferson '22, who found Jeremy Smith '24 at the point for a thunderous one-timer that found its way to the back of the net, leaving the score at 3-1 Wesleyan, where it would remain until the final buzzer. Though technically banned in recent years, moments later the inevitable miniature barrage of orange projectiles flew onto the ice in a time-honored moment of achievement, school spirit, tradition and general buffoonery.

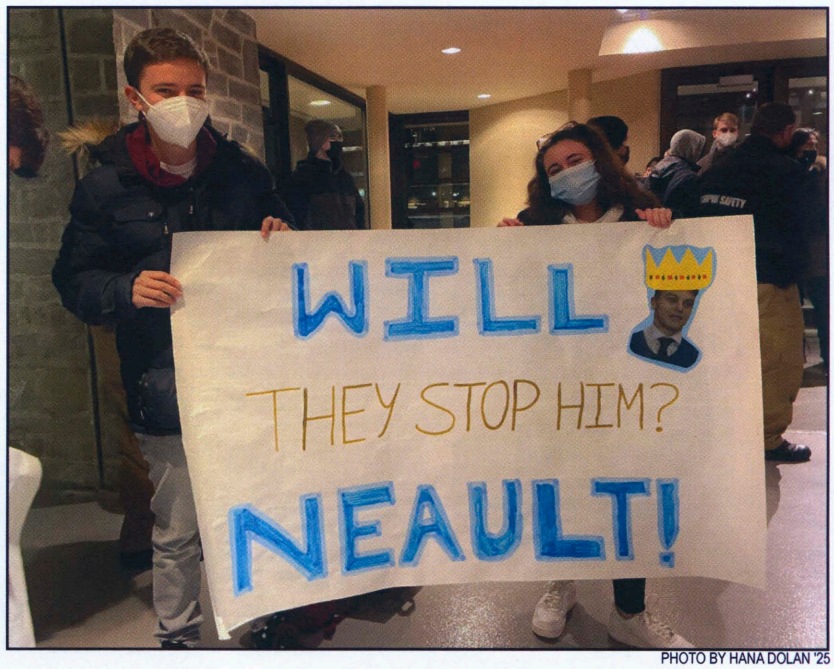


PHOTO BY HANA DOLAN '25

**Fans show off a homemade sign at the Citrus Bowl.**

For the fans, the result did not seem to take too much away from the atmosphere, "It was a fun game despite the loss. Sean Storr '22 really stepped it up after giving up three goals in the first period. Wesleyan's goalie kinda kept us from doing much of anything when we got the opportunities," said fan Noah Bridgeman '24. Storr finished with a season high 32 saves on 35 shots, keeping the lead from growing higher while the offense did its best to muster up a comeback.

The allure of the orange-based celebration still draws many students and faculty to the biggest game of the year. Said Bridgeman, "Despite losing, it was a fun game up until the end. I wish throwing oranges wasn't banned, I want to see the whole rink covered in oranges. It was cool to see the rink packed and the energy felt high throughout."

Hamilton earned a massive 4-3 overtime victory over Trinity the next day, on a game winner from Grisha Gotovets '25, who is second on the team with five goals. After the weekend, the team sits at 5-6-0 in NESCAC play with two overtime losses, positioning them at seventh place in the league.

PHOTO BY HANA DOLAN '25

**Joey Moore '22 handles the puck down the left wing.**

PHOTO BY HANA DOLAN '25

**Abby Marzec '25, Elizabeth Oakes '25, Nikki Greeberg '25, and Anoushka Aswin '25 watch on at ice level.**

February 3, 2022

# Rafael Nadal and the Australian Open

**by Owen Lewis '24**
*SPORTS EDITOR*

Rafael Nadal has a complicated relationship with the Australian Open. He won it in 2009. Ranked #1 at that point, he advanced to the semifinals easily. Once there, he played Fernando Verdasco in a legendary match. Verdasco hit every ball as hard as he could at the edges of the court in an effort to make Nadal run as hard and as much as possible. It was the most high-risk strategy imaginable, but Verdasco was shockingly accurate in his endeavors. Nadal answered the call, chasing down Verdasco's bullet shots for a staggering five hours and 14 minutes. The intensity of the match was so extreme that when Nadal was a point away from winning, he started to cry. "I wasn't crying because I sensed defeat, or even victory," Nadal wrote in his autobiography, *Rafa*, "but as a response to the sheer excruciating tension of it all."

Nadal won that match, then managed to regroup physically for a final against Roger Federer, who he beat in another long, draining match. Nadal had not really played his best in either match, rather, he had to overcome his opponents' great play with all the resolve and consistency he could muster. It was a spectacular victory, a reward for all the little parts of his game he had improved in the past years. Juan José Vallejo, a former tennis writer whose opinions I take as gospel, called this the most impressive feat he had ever seen on a tennis court.

In the years after 2009, the Australian Open has been a place of pain for Nadal. Injury either hampered him or forced him to withdraw altogether in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2018. He made the final but lost narrowly in 2012 and 2017. To make matters worse, he had come from behind in each final only to blow a lead at decisive moments. He made the final yet again in 2019, but Novak Djokovic annihilated him.

Nadal and the Australian Open have had the sport-version of a will-they-won't-they. He has played well there many times, but since 2009, has always been blocked by an opponent's great play, his own lapses, or pure bad luck. He may have played better on average at the Australian Open than the U.S. Open (which he has won four times).

Over time, Nadal's chances at the Australian Open have decreased. He is 35 now and can no longer run endlessly as he did in 2009. He has overcome about a million and a half injuries, including a congenital disorder in his tarsal scaphoid (a bone in his foot). This injury is not treatable, and Nadal has had to negotiate it gently over the years to be able to play — erasing the pain is impossible, but he can keep it to a manageable level.

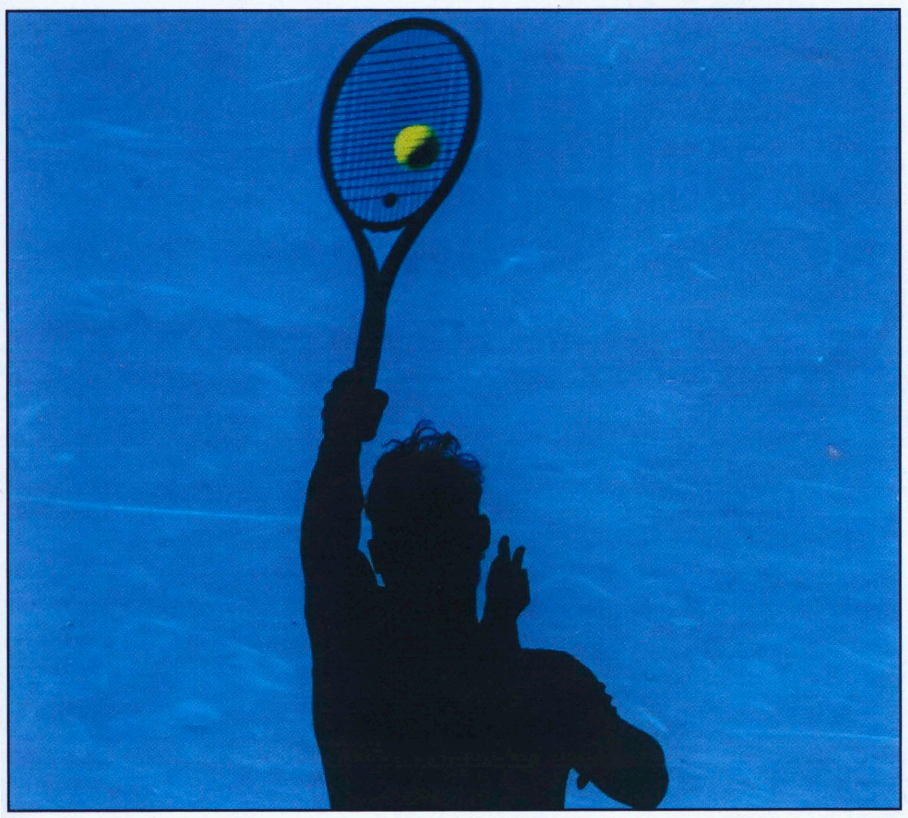

PHOTO BY SCOTT BARBOUR

**Nadal hits a forehand shot in his second-round match on Jan. 18.**

PHOTO BY JAMES D MORGAN/GETTY IMAGES

**Reunited for the first time since 2009: Rafael Nadal kisses the Norman Brookes Trophy as Daniil Medvedev looks on sadly.**

Last year, the injury flared up badly. Nadal played only two matches between the French Open in June and the end of the season. Five months ago, he was on crutches. Shortly before the Australian Open, he caught COVID and had a few days of severe symptoms. He recovered in time to fly to Australia, but he was short on recent match practice, even after a warm-up tournament. Going into the Australian Open, his odds seemed worse than they had been in many years.

Nadal, somehow, made the final. He played well, but strong performances from his opponents did not really materialize—Nadal still looked physically fragile, visibly tiring before the end of matches, but was able to win without significant scares.

Then came the final. Nadal played Daniil Medvedev, who was ranked second to Nadal's sixth, is ten years younger, and had outperformed Nadal as of late. He had developed a fierce affinity for extending points with amazing defense—dangerous for Nadal, who many were thinking needed to play an economical match to have a chance at winning.

Medvedev won the first set of the best-of-five match easily. Despite Nadal having a bunch of chances to win the second, Medvedev won that too. At one point, Nadal trailed 2-6, 6-7, 2-3, love-40. If these numbers mean nothing to you, it is basically the equivalent of a football team trailing 30-0 in the middle of the fourth quarter. It is not a mathematical impossibility that you can win from there, but it will not happen.

Except for Nadal, it did. It was unsurprising that he refused to fold in the third set; his trademark is fighting until the last point. But it was shocking that he pushed Medvedev into tiring faster in the fourth, then survived a near-horrific choke in the fifth. The match went longer than anyone could reasonably expect, longer than I thought Nadal could play. It was five hours and 24 minutes by the end, the second-longest match he has played in his eighteen-plus year career. Nadal smiled in disbelief as Medvedev was unable to reach his last shot. A second Australian Open title had seemed out of reach for years, this year more than ever, yet it had found its way into his arms. He looked so joyous in the moment that the fact he had won a 21st major title, more than any man in history, felt almost irrelevant.

Nadal has spent his career overcoming obstacles, whether they be his opponents or one of dozens of injuries. This last achievement was one of his most unexpected, and with it coming so late in his career, it will taste all the sweeter.